Mahabharata Says

April 29, 2017

It's an epic, and storybook. That's how most of us have known Mahabharata since childhood. However, recently I discovered, while re-reading, many startling guidance Mahabharata gives on how should we live our life. I cannot resist myself to share those, and regular FB page I found as not sufficient to publish those. Hence this effort. I shall continue to publish, for now in text mode only, those insights and hope you find those wonderful too. All will be in form of short stories, I found them quite enjoyable, followed by life-guiding advice, always beyond so-called religions and dogmas.

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When you see someone, superior to you in some skill, is trying to fool you, do not fight or argue. Rather, employ your capabilities to knock him out.

- The Author of Mahabharata, Vyasa, requested Ganesha to put the Mahabharata text on paper, as he, Vyasa, keeps telling it. Ganesha was surely the greatest copier-writer in India then. However, for reasons unknown, Ganesha put a condition that - his pen must not stop writing and Vyasa must keep speaking continuously, without pause. [Probably Ganesha was trying to avoid such a huge copy work 🙂:), who knows]
Vyasa did not aruge and happily accepted that condition. He just added another condition : before penning it down, Ganesha must understand meaning of each word, as well as the complete meaning of the whole sentence !

Deal done !

Vyasa started coming with so complex texts that Ganesha himself had to pause his pen to understand the meaning and then resume writing 🙂:) Those pauses were sufficient for Vyasa to compose further texts.

April 30, 2017

In our professional life, We learn 'persuasive skill' to better manage our stakeholders.
Consider below case study. How do you persuade a king to carry on with his kingdom, as all his subjects look at him, but who says :
"Post this mega-war of Kurukshetra, where I have been the cause of death for my Grandfather, Uncles, brother, their families and innumerable kings and their

soldiers, just for the shake of gaining back my lost kingdom. I have even been cause of death for some of my sons, and my brothers's sons, who died in this war. I repent now. I do not want any of these wealth, fame, vanity or enjoyments. I need peace and I can clearly see I must go to forest and perform austerities leaving all these. O Arjuna - better you be the king and leave me."
Glory of Mahabharata is it says only a line or two, as a guidance, to stabilize such situations.
Shri Krishna and Vyasa consoled King Yudhistira by this guidance :
"When you are dragged into war and then you repent for your activity, any killing is no sin. You have performed your "dharma" of being an warrior. It is a sin only when one deliberately and knowingly kills others with bad intention and never repent on that."

May 1, 2017

Mahabharata says - Father is nobler than a group of ten Brahmanas, who are well versed in all Vedas. Mother is ten times nobler than father, or than the whole earth. But, Guru is nobler than parents, as parents give birth to this mortal body, but Guru imparts a knowledge that takes one to immortality.

May 2, 2017

No vision alike knowledge,
no austerity alike truth,
no sorrow alike attachment,
no happiness alike renunciation.

May 4, 2017

Meat is the most tasteful among all foods, hence most people prefer meat over vegetables, sweets and other foods. However, meat is most fitting only for those having very weak health or suffering from malnutrition or extremely tired. Meat provides instant energy and quick nutrition.
One who has sound health, is free from diseases must not eat meat. One who consumes meat desiring growth of only his own body is the cruelest and meanest of all human.
Mercy and saving life of creatures is the highest of 'dharma', nothing beyond that. Knowing that all creatures are manifestation of same God as like his, human must have mercy to all creatures.

A creature can only be killed for the purpose of 'Yagna', following the prescribed method of performing the rituals.
Those who eat the meat, gets eaten by that creature during next birth. That's the implication of the word 'Mangsha' (meat) : sha (he) ate mang (me) earlier, hence I shall eat him now.

May 8, 2017

Brahmana is one who possesses truthfulness, charity, mercy, great character, non-violence, austerity and sympathy to every creature. If such qualities are seen in a Shudra he should be respected as Brahman. And if any person, who claims himself to be Brahman by birth, does not possess these qualities, he should be pointed as a Shudra.

May 12, 2017

There are three things that happen only once - obtaining one's paternal property, making wedding of one's daughter, uttering the desire 'I give..'.
Any effort to re-do them invites utter misery.

May 18, 2017

To save family, one of the member can be left behind. To save a village, one of the family can be left behind. To save a country one of the village can be left behind. To save one's self, whole earth can be left behind.
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Rules of "Dharma-Yuddha" are :

0. War will start with sun-rise and end with sun-set.
1. At end of everyday's war, both the armies will happily meet each other, greet, eat together and take rest without any fear.
2. If one uses speech as a weapon, counter-weapon will be speech only, no arms to be used.
3. Soldiers who leave the battle-field are to never to attacked or killed.
4. A horse-rider to fight another horse-rider only. An elephant-rider to fight another elephant-rider only. A chariot to fight another chariot only. An walking soldier to fight another walking soldier only.
5. Opponent must be made aware and asked for permission before attack.
6. Trusted or unprepared persons are never to be attacked.

7. One is already fighting with someone else, or who has sought mercy, or who is unwilling to fight, or one who has lost his weapon or one who does not have iron-dress are never to be fought with.
8. Support teams like supplier of food, water, medicine,arms, announcer, coolies, music-player are never to be attacked.

June 12, 2017

Below are the Kings who were born in a 'Rajarshi' family, achieved exemplary glory and fought & won a 'dharma-yuddha' :
Shaibya Srinjay
Shuhotra Rantidev
Kakshiban Oushijo
Bahlik Daman
Sharjati Ajit
Nal Biswamitra
Ambarish Marutta
Manu Ikshaku
Goy (against whose name today's Gaya in Bihar)
Bharat (against whose name our country is named)
Dasharathi (father of Rama)
Rama
Sashabindu
Bhagirath (who channeled Ganga river)
Kritavirya
Shuvakarma
Yajati (ancestor of Kauravas and Pandavas)

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One chariot, one elephant (with rider), three horses (with rider) and five walking soldier - these make up a "Potti".
3 "Potti"s make a "Senamukh".
3 "Senamukh"s make a "Gulma".
3 "Gulma"s make a "Gana".
3 "Gana"s make a "Vahini".
3 "Vahini"s make a "Pritana".
3 "Pritana"s make a "Chamu".

3 "Chamu"s make an "Anikini".
10 "Anikini"s make an "Akkhouhini".
In simpler terms, one "Akkhouhini" contains - 21870 chariots , 21870 elephants, 109350 walking soldiers and 65610 horses.
In Kurukshetra war, 18 such Akkhouhinis fought with each other, and all died except 10 persons (5 Pandavas, Shri Krishna, Satyaki, Dhritarastra, Sanjay and Vidur).

June 14, 2017

One who extends knowledge without conceiving 'Gurudakshina' (best translation : remuneration) and one who accepts knowledge without extending 'Gurudakshina', one of them immediately faces 'death' or comes under the grasp of atrocity.

Earlier the name of the book was 'Bharat-samhita'. Once Gods put all four Vedas on one side of an weigh, but 'Bharat-samhita' weighed more, on the other side of the weigh, than all four Vedas.
Since then, the book came to be known as 'Maha-Bharat'.

June 28, 2017

"Luck or Effort with perseverance - which is superior ?"
Brahma advises - "It requires both seed and good quality field to produce crops. For human endeavors, effort is comparable with field and luck is that of seed. Results are obtained only when sustained effort with perseverance is deployed, just depending on luck causes extreme apathy. See, even Vagaban Vishnu, who has created all the universe along with all the creatures, he too continuously performs 'Tapas' in the sea.
If luck does not favor, difficulties indeed arise. But then, only through effort with perseverance those difficulties are to be overcome. There is no other way.
On the other hand, sustained effort with perseverance always follow good luck. Where there is no effort with perseverance, no amount of good luck will be able to yield good results.
Human must not trust on luck, it is not his 'Dharma'. According to capability, everyone should exhibit effort with perseverance. "

July 16 2017

A ruler should thrive to follow the "Rajarshi" ideology.
Once Dharma took the form of a Brahmana to test "Rajarshi" Janaka. That Brahmana did some mischief, and Janaka ordered him to go and stay out of his "Adhikar" (Territory - the places which are under Janaka's occupation).
Brahmana asked - "O King, kindly advise which places are outside of your "Adhikar", I shall immediately go there".
This utterance suddenly made Janaka extremely contemplating. He was thinking and thinking and thinking, while rest of his court-members were puzzled as to why he is taking so long to answer such a simple question.
After a long time Janaka, in a very joyful voice, told - "O Brahmana, after long consideration I found that although I have inherited the control on certain amount of land as my Kingdom, I do not have any rights on anything of this world.
I have no rights on anything of the Earth, of Mithila state and then on any of my people.
I cannot control either the creation, or the existence, or the destruction of anything of this world. It's only their form that, which anyway is destined to change, I can temporarily change but nothing further.
At the same time, I understood that "I AM" everything of this world, and nothing exists that "I AM NOT", far from asking what's in my control. There is no territory which is "NOT ME", be it anywhere. Everything in this world has been created for the purpose of everybody, I cannot and do not consume any of them just for the enjoyment of my bodily likes.
O Brahmana, you are free to go wherever YOU THINK this is not Janaka's territory."
Dharma was so happy to hear this understanding that he appraised Janaka as the highest manifestation of Rajarshi ideal.

August 31 2017

[Note : 'Mind' is a very vague term to encompass all aspects of human. We call it 'Antah-karana' or 'Internal Organs', having a special feature that they continue to work during dream-sleep state also along with awakened state.]
Human 'Antah-karana', primarily, is four folds:
1) Manas : (The Postman)
An extremely dynamic entity responsible for generating curiosity, non-deterministic thoughts, solution options for a problem and communicating with 'Buddhi'.

2) Buddhi : (The Judge)
The deterministic and judgemental faculty that judges all the observations by Manas, directs it for the to-do's, 'Thinks', and drives a person to 'what is right'. If required, Buddhi refers to 'Chitta' for references to old cases !
3) Chitta : (The infinity Terabyte Hard disk !)
Simply, the memory. It stores everything that Manas brings, but periodically scans it's entire database, deletes irrelevant files and aids Buddhi with past references !
4) Ahamkara : (The House-Owner !)
The sense of I, sense of ownership. Without it's presence, both Buddhi and Manas stop working in a selfish manner.
Recognize these four faculties, and work upon Manas to control and stabilize it, work upon Buddhi to purify it, work upon Chitta to use it's full capacity and work upon Ahankara to understand it.

February 22, 2018

" Those who created roadblocks in your path to gain power, you must eliminate them all once you gain power. That's your first duty. You must not forgive them or have any mercy on them. "
- Shanti Parva, 10th Chapter

February 23 2018

Just leaving the house and family is not true renunciation. One who can renunciate "Ego" and "Affection" is the true renunciator.

March 6 2018

If a learned person comes under the grip of "Ahamkara" (Excessive show-off of self-esteem), this is to be pacified by consuming only hot milk at night for three days, followed by only hot ghee at night for three days, followed by only hot water at night for three days.

March 10 2018

If a Brahmana performs non-righteous actions, he or she is to be treated like a slave, or dog, or Ox, or a lower-graded animal by the Society.